

THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1871.

they of Fil Harbour, Fate, whom the missionaries have evidently been cross-examining, with a view to prove that he landed with the bloodthirsty intention of shooting natives. When the tomahawk was raised to kill me Sam said, "Here, in the air, which so frightened the natives that they fled, and I lost a hasty retreat into the bush. I did not see any of them fall, nor do I believe that any were injured. The fact was, the natives imagined they were aimed, and thought to make an easy capture by their assurances of friendship, but we soon found that they were well prepared themselves, as they had with characteristic industry their tomahawks and clubs concealed behind them."

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Yours, &c.,
JOHN REES

Schooner Spunkie, Brisbane, February 20.

11 p.m., Monday, 10th October, 1876. The steamer *Albatross* was close in shore, east side of Mallico; natives appeared on the beach, and the boats were sent ashore to take the natives into possession of the boats and their trade, they were not long in having got away with some difficulty from the treacherous shore.

12 p.m.—Boats returned without any accident; the natives were then up and squared away for Banks Islands.

“JOHN KANE, Captain.”

SINGULAR CASE OF LIBEL.

A LIBEL CASE came before the Court of Common Pleas lately. Colonel Pownall, a retired Indian officer, who in 1867 married a Miss Jeffs. He subsequently became a very ill, and in August, 1869, he died of an aneurism of the aorta, the cause of which was ascertained to have been carefully tended by his wife, but his two sisters, who had been opposed to their brother's marriage, conceived the notion that Mrs. Pownall was killing him, and prosecuted her by libel. The jury, however, gave their opinion that this was the case. Mr. Pownall during his illness was attended by Sir William Gowers, M.D., and by Dr. Williams, of the University of London, and by several other medical men. Ten months after his death the two sisters wrote to Dr. Lankester, the coroner, stating that they had reason to believe that their brother had been poisoned by his wife. Dr. Williams was then inquest on the body. Dr. Lankester consulted Dr. Forman, who had attended the colonel all through his illness, and he was asked to give evidence at the

sisters to withdraw the demand. An inquest was accordingly held, and a verdict of "Death from

natural causes" returned. The Misses Pownall attended on the occasion, and accused Mrs. Pownall of having been the accomplice in the crime. The story of the accomplished murderess. Having found out that the heart and brain had not been examined, they had photographs of Mrs. Pownall printed and sent them to the coroner. The coroner's jury returned the following is a copy — "To affectionate wife, widows, *alias* persons, aristocratic families, etc. Past-mortems performed without disgracing the body of the deceased. The structure of the stomach and intestines observed. Their own undertakers employed. Credit given. They appear personally, or by letter, to Mrs. Pownall, the Principal, 6, Middleton-place, near Nelson-terrace, Stoke Newington Road; or to the superintendent, Mr. Murray, of Highgate Cemetery. Particulars may be obtained. Smoking allowed, and hearty commutation. The trial of the honest performance. No admission to do friends or relatives of the deceased, representatives of the deceased, or the family. The trial of the sisters, Mr. Sejerant Ballantine, the counsel for the defendant, retired from the case, and Miss Sarah Pownall then brought in the evidence of the witnesses, examined the witnesses, and addressed the jury, declaring that all she and her sister had done they did from a sense of duty, believing that her brother had been murdered. She said she had been brought into court to apologise, but she could do no such thing. Miss Sarah then went into the witness-box and swore that all her sister had said was correct. The jury returned a verdict of guilty. It was arranged that the action against Miss Pownall should abide that against Miss Sarah Pownall, and an imilar verdict was returned in that case.

THE NEW AMERICAN MINISTER TO ENGLAND.
The following report is published of the statement

of General Schenck's published in the *Staatsman* of Amsterdam on the 22nd of January. In regard to the fishery question the General said: "My impression is that Great Britain is as much so difficult to deal with in relation to the Fisheries as the Canadians themselves. I have reason to believe that the conduct of the latter is not stimulated by instructions from the mother country, but on the contrary, causes much concern to Great Britain herself. Of course, England will not entirely disavow and rebuke the unfriendly manifestations of the Provinces towards the people of this country."

but my opinion is that England feels annoyed at the conduct of the Canadians, and will probably send out a delegate to the Government of the Dominion.

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try to get all the money we can. I can say that the Fisheries question will be drawn into discussion along with the Alabama claims. We shall try

over," The General remarked that he had received his instructions yet; but he had no objection to their leaving him very fair margin for his own discretion.

—“Her Majesty can confer no jurisdiction beyo-
her dominions, except by the voluntary submission

the clergy to the Bishop so appointed. Hence, the society is expected voluntarily to place its missionaries under the new Bishop, and to this sanction a scheme of arrangement is suggested, which is not at all implied practice. To this the society cannot consent it would rather submit to be driven from the island on which it has laboured with much success and blessing from above. On these grounds the Obsequious Society would rather submit to be driven from the island, it is still thought expedient to send an Anglican Bishop to Madagascar, it may be under an arrangement which will exclude those parts of the Church Missionary Society from the jurisdiction of the new bishop, thus leaving its missionaries, as heretofore, under the Bishop of Mauritius." The same day the Rev. John Chalmers, ven. to the Rev. H. C. Main, Bishop, treasurer; the Rev. Frederic Verne, secretary; and the officers of the society. The present arrangement is that Mr. Haynes shall be created vicar of the island, and to proceed to the distant diocese.—*News*, December 29.

DEATH IN DARLINGHURST GAOL.—On last Saturday forenoon, the City Coroner (Mr. Henry Shield) held an inquest at the above-mentioned establishment, touching the death of a convict prisoner, named William Williams. It appeared from the evidence of Mr. Michael Burns, principal warder of the gaol, that deceased, who was about fifty-eight years of age, was sentenced to Darlshurst about three ages for murder committed by throwing a child into a well; he was sentenced to imprisonment for life, and was removed from Darlshurst to the hospital at Fort Macquarie, and back again to Darlshurst about a week ago. He was found dead in the gaol hospital, where death occurred. The jury returned a verdict of "Death from natural cause."

ALARM OF FIRE.—About noon yesterday an alarm was given, and the fire-bells of the city were so long ringing, that the people were not aware of the signs were visible, that a conflagration of some magnitude must be raging somewhere near. Mr. Brown proceeded to the residence of his friend and a hand-pump to a gallery in George-street, where he saw a fire burning in the room of Mr. McEnroe, tobacconist, and Mrs. Hopson, milliner, which smoke was said to have been seen issuing from the back store the occupation of Mr. McEnroe. From the passage it was discovered that the fire was coming from the back chimney of Mrs. Hopson's, of 598, George-street. By the aid of a hand-pump, water from a hand-pump, the fire was extinguished by the No. 2 Volunteers, the whose manual engine was held in readiness should it be required. The No. 2 Volunteers were also on the ground with their engines.

GOLD FIND AT WELLINGTON.—A telegram appeared in our *Express* yesterday relative to a find of gold at or near Wellington. The result of one week's work has been so good to us. It may be seen in Mac Donnell's window in George-street. It is a very fine specimen of gold. It is said to be the first find of gold on the Macquarie, and is of remarkably fine quality. One might suppose that the discovery of course excites high hopes in the neighbourhood.

LATITUDES.—We have *Lyttelton* papers to the 14th of February, but they are devoid of news other than local.

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water, had one side polished, another rough and a third covered with lampblack, the smooth side radiated little heat, the roughened side while the blackened side radiated a great deal. The three similar thermometers, having the three similar thermometers, having the three (1) gilded, (2) covered with roughened, (3) smoked, their sensibility will be in the ratio of 3, 2, 1. A practical illustration of this is in the fact that a blackened kettle is one in which water is most speedily boiled. The polished surface of a boiler, on the other hand, if a willow-pattern plate be heated with the fire, and then examined in a dark room, the pattern will be reversed, a white pattern seen on a dark ground. It is this law of reflection and absorption that mainly gives us the superior comfort of white clothing to dark clothing in summer and of dark clothing in winter, it absorbs less in summer." "In summer the less absorption would be when the temperature was above 98 degrees."

"Encyclopædia Britannica," edit. 9th edition, p. 264.—"The effect of surface in the transmission of bodies, an important part of the science of radiation, has been also examined by Leslie. It is found that when the surface of a body is black, it absorbs when it is of consequence to preserve it in liquids they should be conveyed in tubes and of polished metal. On the other hand, if we wish to have the greatest range from a stove or grate, its surface next to the fire should be dark and rough, as these are most favourable for radiating heat."

"Encyclopædia Britannica," Art. "Radiation," p. 324.—"It has been shown from the direct experiment that the bodies which are best radiators are also the best absorbers of heat." It has likewise appeared that the

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THE ILLUSTRIOUS CAMERON
TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEWS
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Per. mail, February 23rd.

HENRI NUISANCE

OMNIBUS NUISANCE
TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEWS
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THE LAND.

(From the Sydney Mail, February 25.)

It is expected that the PRIZE SCHEDULES for the August show will be published in the March number of the Agricultural Society's Journal. At the last weekly meeting of the Exhibition Committee, most of them were presented. It is proposed to receive them all at a meeting called for the 3rd March, when they will be finally discussed before being presented for adoption to the Council on the 8th March.

The Earl of Belmore, with his usual generosity, has offered £50 in prizes for live stock. He proposes to give £25 to the exhibitor of the best breeding cow, £15 to the exhibitor of the best brood mare, and £10 to the exhibitor of the best pen of six ewes—no restriction being made as to age. In this course he deals out his favours with impartiality; last year he encouraged the male side of the house, he now encourages the female side. We hope the competition will be lively.

Messrs. Mort and Co., in deference to the expression of opinion at the last Wool Show, have made some change in the conditions attached to their handsome prize of a 50-guinea challenge cup. This cup is now to be offered to the exhibitor who with 10 bales of wool shall be accorded the first place at the Annual Wool Show TWO YEARS successively. This change will meet the objections that were raised against the indefinite prolongation of the contest, in case it was required of competitors by winners three successive years. The result will not be put off very long, and in no case will there be a vexatious detention of wool. The quantity required will ensure the exhibit being a fair sample of the clip. The entries will probably be numerous.

We observe that there is not perfect unanimity about the number of divisions into which the wool combats are to be thrown, in virtue of climate and locale. Some difference seems to exist respecting the formation of a small district for Mudgee. It is contended by many wool growers that the Mudgee growers do not need such odds to be given them—being perfectly well able to hold their own in an open short wool class. This question is now the subject of discussion, and the schedule put forward is to elicit the views of the growers.

The outgoing mail conveys the challenge of the Society to the fine wool growers of America and Germany—the prize being a gold cup. What this will bring it is hard to say; perhaps nothing, but we know that there are fine wools in the United States that might be put in. The fine wools of Germany are mostly produced under cover; if they appear there may be some comparison made respecting cost of production.

Now that the Prize Schedules are being prepared those who are thinking about offering special prizes should make their intentions known to the Society that due publicity may be given to them. They will now be announced in all the sister colonies. If made known after the schedule is issued it is doubtful whether they will reach beyond New South Wales.

The SILK SHOW is to come off on Wednesday next. The Society's journal says respecting it: "The whole affair being an experiment, it may be understood that the prizes which lapse from want of competition will be awarded by the committee wherever they are warranted, irrespectively of date or quantity. Those who have done anything worth speaking about with silk-worms should let the public see what they can contribute to the common stock, and take their chance of an award of merit." The exhibits must be in on Tuesday next.

The SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE of the Agricultural Society met last Friday, for the purpose of looking at some carefully prepared definitions of an insect which Mr. William Morris has lately discovered upon the leaves of the Isabella grape at Ashfield. The insect is supposed to be the *Phylloxera vastatrix*, known in France; but although the New South Wales insect answers to the French one in habit, it does not in form and appearance. Unless carefully sought for, the creature will not be seen, but will be seen if it will be found to cover the surface of the leaf, living upon its juices, and otherwise interfering with the nourishment of the plant. As it is, the season is too far advanced for much mischief to be done, but this timely notice directed to it has set several pairs of eyes to observe its operations, and we shall soon be informed of its mode, propagation, and length of life, &c. Specimens are forwarded to the Entomological Society of London to be named. This seems to be the same insect the Secretary of the Society called attention to last year.

The continuance of wet weather has provoked an outbreak of PLEURISY among some districts of the colony, and much anxiety springs therefrom. Past experience of this malady does not commend it to notice, except as a dangerous pest, to be got rid of as quickly as possible. As yet there is no legislation respecting the treatment of pleura. It may run as it will without check, and although the general voice is in favour of inoculation, those whose belief is contrary are left to do as they please, and nothing is done to proscribe the movement of cattle from infected districts. We understand that strong evidences of the disease are to be seen at the Sydney slaughter-houses, and that the inhabitants of this favoured city are consuming a great deal of meat impudently diseased. It would be well if the facts elicited by the last inquiry of the Government, through the Chief Inspector of Stock, into the practice and opinion of cattle breeders respecting pleuro-pneumonia, were more carefully considered by all persons concerned.

From the annual report of the ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND we perceive that there are 1547 live members, 3899 annual members, and 15 honorary members, making a total of 5609. The funded capital consists of permanent fund £20,000 (New Three per Centa), and a reserve fund £1612 7s. 6d. A deficiency in the showyard receipts at Oxford reduced this latter by £2000. Keeping in view the increasing importance of steam power as a means of good cultivation, and especially as a means of improving heavy land, the council have extended and developed the scheme of prizes hitherto offered for improvements and sets of tackle suitable for steam cultivation. In order to meet, as far as practicable, the requirements of every class of agriculturists, they have decided to offer prizes for the best combination of machinery for the cultivation of the soil by steam power under three heads: (1) without imposing any restriction; (2) limiting the weight of the engine to 10 tons; (3) stipulating that the combination of machinery can be worked by an ordinary farm engine, whether locomotive or portable. The President (Lord Vernon) has still further extended the scheme by offering a silver cup of the value of £100, for the best combination of machinery for the cultivation of the soil by steam power, the cost of which shall not ex-

ceed £700—the engine to be locomotive, and adapted for thrashing and other farm purposes. Having therefore arrived at the principle, the main object is to get a workable apparatus and to reduce its cost so as to bring it into general use.

There is a proposition afloat in England to supply the French agriculturists with seed corn, and not only with seed corn but with all seeds necessary to sow their fields. A committee is to be formed in England to receive the grain, seeds, &c., and to forward them to the ports of France least exposed to hostile attacks. The authorities are to store these contributions, and the French cultivators are to communicate their wants by means of circulars and notices in the journals, each application being controlled by the mayor of the commune in concert with the president of the Agricultural Society of the locality.

The hint about the preservation of BUTTER for export to Europe in last week's issue has produced fruit. Mr. James Manning has taken up the matter, and shows how feasible the venture is. If it is possible to adopt such a plan in the manner he suggests, and we see no impediment, to the dairy products of such districts as the Illawarra would prove highly valuable to us. A portion of the colony that is languishing would find abundance of riches in its fertile pastures.

INSIDE PARIS.

DIARY OF "THE BESIEGED RESIDENT."

(From the Daily News, December 26.)

PARIS, Wednesday, December 31. WHEN the Fenians in the United States meditate a raid upon Canada, they usually take very great care to allow their intentions to be known. Our sorties are much like these Fenian surprises. If the Prussians do not know when we are about to attack, they cannot complain that it is our fault. The "Après vous, Messieurs les Anglais," still forms the chivalrous but somewhat naïf tactics of the Gauls. On Sunday, as a first step to military operations, the gates of the city were closed to all unprovided with laissez. On Monday a grand council of generals and admirals took place at the Palais Royal. Yesterday and all last night drums were beating, trumpets were blowing, and troops were marching through the streets. The war battalions of the National Guard, in their new uniforms, spick and span, were greeted with shouts, to which they replied by singing a song, the chorus of which is "Vive la guerre Pif-Paf," and which has replaced the "Marseillaise." As the ambulances had been ordered to be ready to start at 6 in the morning, I presumed that business would commence at an early hour, and I ordered myself to be called at 5.30. I was called, and got out of my bed, but, alas for noble resolutions! Having done so, I got back again into it, and remained between the sheets quietly enjoying that sleep which is derived from the possession of a good conscience, and a still better digestion, until the clock struck 9.

It was not until past 11 o'clock that I found myself on the outside of the gate of La Villette, advancing as Grouchy should have done at Waterloo, in the direction of the sound of the cannon. From the gate a straight road runs to the right, and a mile from Le Bourget there is a cross road running to St. Denis through Courmeux. Here I found the barricade which had formed our most advanced post removed, Le Bourget seemed to be on fire. Shells were falling into it from the Prussian batteries, and, as well as I could make out, our forts were shelling it too. Our artillery was on a slight rise to the right of Le Bourget, in advance of Drancy; and in the fields between Drancy and this rise, heavy masses of troops were drawn up in support. Officers assured me that Le Bourget was still in our possession, and that if I felt inclined to go there, there was nothing to prevent me. I confess I am not one of those persons who snuff up the battle from afar, and feel an irresistible desire to rush into the middle of it. To be knocked on the head by a shell, merely to gratify one's curiosity, appears to me to be the utmost height of absurdity. Those who put themselves between the hammer and the anvil, come off generally second best, and I determined to defer my visit to the interesting village before me until the question whether it was to belong to Gaul or Teuton had been definitely decided. So I turned off to the left and went to St. Denis.

Here everybody was in the street, asking everybody else for news. The forts all round it were firing heavily. On the Place before the Cathedral there was a great crowd of men, women, and children. The sailors, who are quartered here in great numbers, said that they had carried Le Bourget early in the morning, but that they had been obliged to fall back, with the loss of about a third of their number. Most of them had hatches by their sides, and they attack a position much as if they were boarding a ship. About 100 prisoners had been brought into the town in the morning, and as two French Christians who had been wounded, and for whom the greatest sympathy was expressed. Little seemed to be known of what was passing. "The Prussians will be here in an hour," shouted one man; "The Prussians are being exterminated!" shouted another. "What is this?" cried the crowd, as Monseigneur Bauer, the bishop in *partibus infidelium* of some place or other, now came riding along with his staff. He held up his two fingers, and turned his hand right and left. His pastoral blessing was, however, but a half success. The women crossed themselves and the men muttered "farceur." The war which is now raging has produced many humbugs, but none to my mind equal to this bishop. His great object is to see and to be seen, and most thoroughly does he succeed in his object. He is a short, stout man, dressed in a casack, a pair of jack-boots with large spurs, and a hat such as you would only see at the opera. On his breast he wears a huge star. Round his neck is a chain, with a great golden cross attached to it; and on his fingers, over his gloves, he wears gorgeous rings. The trappings of his horse are thickly sprinkled with Geneva crosses. By his side rides a standard-bearer, bearing aloft a flag with a red cross. Eight aides-de-camp, arrayed in a sort of purple and gold fancy uniform, follow him, and the cortege is closed by two grooms in unimpeachable tops. In this guise, and followed by this état major, he is a conspicuous figure upon a field of battle, and produces

much the same effect as the head of a circus riding into a town on a pichard horse, surrounded by clowns and pets of the ballet. He was the confessor of the Empress, and is now the saviour of the Press; but why he wears jack-boots, why he capers about on a fiery horse, why he has a staff of aides-de-camp, and why he has two grooms, are things which no one seems to know. He patronises generals and admirals, doctors and commissariat officers, and they submit to be patronised by him. Half-priest, half-bourgeois, something of a Friar Tuck and something of a Louis XV. abbe, he is a sort of privileged person, who by the mere force of impudence has made his way in the world. Most English girls in their teens fall in love with a curate and a cavalry officer. Monseigneur Bauer, who combines in himself the unctuous curate and the dashing dragon, is adored by the fair sex in Paris. He is as clever as he is impudent. He knows how to adapt his conversation to the most opposite kind of persons, and I should not be surprised if he becomes a Cardinal before he dies.

The arrival of Dr. Ricord was the next event. He was in a basket pony chaise, driving two ponies not much larger than rats. A pole, about twelve feet high, bearing the flag of the Geneva Cross, was stuck beside him, and it was knocking against the telegraph wires which ran along the street. The eminent surgeon was arrayed in a long coat buttoned up to his chin and his head was down to his feet. On his head was a white cloth, which was as large for him. He looked like one of those wooden figures of Noah, when that patriarch, with his family, is lodged in a child's ark. Having inspected the bishop and the doctor with respectful admiration, and instituted a search for some bread and wine, I thought it was time to see what was going on outside. On emerging from St. Denis, everything, except the guns of the forts, appeared quiet. I had not, however, gone far in the direction of Le Bourget, which was still burning, when I saw stopped by a regiment marching towards St. Denis, some of the officers of which told me that the village had been retaken by the Prussians; the artillery, too, which I had left on the rise before Drancy, had disappeared. At a farm yard close by Drancy I saw Ducrot with his staff. The General had his hood drawn over his head, and both he and his aide-de-camp looked so glum that I thought it just as well not to congratulate him upon the operations of the day. In and behind Drancy there were a large number of troops, who I heard were to camp there during the night. None seemed exactly to know what had happened. The officers and soldiers were not in good spirits. On my return into Paris, however, I found the following proclamation of the Government posted on the walls:—"2 p.m.—The attack commenced this morning by a great deployment from Mount Valerain to Nogent, the combat has commenced, and continues everywhere, with favourable chances for us.—SCHMITZ." The people on the Boulevards seem to imagine that a great victory has been gained. When one asks them where? they answer "everywhere." I can only answer myself for what occurred at Le Bourget. I hear that Vinoy has occupied Nogent, on the north of the Marne; the resistance he encountered could not, however, have been very great, as only seven wounded have been brought into this hotel, and only one to the American ambulance. General Trochu announced this morning that 100 battalions of the National Guard are outside the walls, and that he is curious to learn how they conduct themselves under fire. For he is from me to say that they will not fight like lions. If they do, however, it will surprise most of the military men with whom I have spoken on the subject. As yet, all they have done has been to make frequent "puces with death," to perform unauthorised strategic movements to the rear whenever they have been sent to the front, to consume much liquor, to pillage houses and—to put it poetically—to wit with Amoryllis in the trench, or with the angles of Nereus' hair. Their general, Clement Thomas, is doing his best to knock them into shape, but I am afraid that it is too late. There are cases in which, in defiance of the proverb, it is too late to mend.

Officers in a position to know assure me that no really serious sortie will be made, but that after two or three days of the sham fights, such as took place to-day, the troops will quietly return to Paris. The object of General Trochu is, they say, to amuse the Parisians, and if he can, by hook or by crook, get the National Guard under the mildest of fires, to celebrate their heroism, in order that they may return the compliment. He cannot, however, believe that no attempt will be made to fight a battle; the troops are now massed from St. Denis to the Marne; within two hours they can all be brought to any point along this line, and I should imagine that either to-morrow or the next day something will be done in the direction of the Forest of Bondy. Trochu, it is daily felt more strongly, even by calm temperate men, is not the right man in the right place. He is a respectable literary man, utterly unfit to cope with the situation. His great aim seems now to be to curry favour with the Parisian population by praising in all his proclamations the National Guard, and ascribing to them a courage of which as yet they have given no proof. This, of course, injures him with the Line and the Mobiles, who naturally object to their being called upon to do all the fighting, whilst others are lauded for it. The officers all swear by Vinoy, and hold the military capacity both of Trochu and Ducrot very cheap. In the desperate strait to which Paris is reduced, something more than a man estimable for his private virtues and his literary attainments is required. Trochu, as we are frequently told, gave up his brougham, in order to adopt his nephew. Richard III. killed his; but it by no means follows that Richard III. would not have been a better defender of Paris than Trochu. As he has proved himself to be. His political aspirations and his military combinations are in perpetual conflict. He is ever sacrificing the one to the other, and consequently he fails both as a general and as a statesman.

In order to form an opinion with regard to the condition of the poorer classes, I went yesterday into some of the back lanes in the neighbourhood of the Boulevard de Clichy. The distress is terrible. Women and children, half starved, were seated at their doorsteps, with hardly clothes to cover them decently. They said that, as they had neither firewood nor coke, they were warmer out-of-doors than in-doors. Many of the National Guards, instead of bringing their money home to their families, spend it in drink; and there are many families, composed entirely of women and children, who, in this land of bureaucracy, are apparently left to starve whilst it is decided to what category they belong. The Citizen Mollu, the ultra-Democratic Mayor, announced that in his

surroundings all left-handed marriages are to be regarded as valid, and the left-handed spouses of the National Guards are to receive the allowance which is granted to the legitimate wives of these warriors. But a new difficulty has arisen. Left-handed polygamy prevails to a great extent among the Citizen Mollu's admirers. Is a lady who has five husbands entitled to five rations, and is a lady who only owns the fifth of a National Guard to have only one-fifth of a ration? These are questions which the Citizen Mollu is now attempting to solve. A few days ago Madame Hamelin was discovered dead in bed in a garret of Belleville, of cold and starvation. Her husband had been, under Louis Philippe, ambassador at Constantinople. I went to see yesterday what was going on in the house of a friend of mine in the Avenue de l'Impératrice, who has left Paris. The servant who was in charge told me that up there they had been unable to obtain bread for three days, and that the last time that he presented his ration ticket he had been given about half an inch of cheese. "How do you live, then?" I asked. After looking mysteriously round to see that no one was watching us, he took me down into the cellar, and pointed to some meat in a barrel. "It is half a horse," he said in the tone of a man who is showing some one the corpse of his murdered victim. "A neighbouring coachman killed him, and we salted him down and divided it." Then he opened a closet in which sat a huge cat. "I am fattening her up for Christmas day," he observed. My English friend regarded it as a religious duty to eat turkey at Christmas, but fancy fulfilling this duty by devouring a cat. It is like an Arab in the desert, who cannot wash his hands when he addresses his evening prayer, and makes shift with sand. This reminds me that some antiquarian has discovered that in eating horse we are only reverting to the habits of the ancient Gauls. Before the Christian religion was introduced into the country the Druids used to sacrifice horses, which were afterwards eaten. Christianity put an end to these sacrifices, and horseflesh then went out of fashion. Nothing like a contented spirit.

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A FRENCH LADY ON ENGLISH HOMES AND ENGLISH HOUSEWIVES. The following letter from a French lady appears in the London Daily News:—"May I venture to send you a few lines suggested to me by a several weeks' sojourn in England, where the terrible strife now raging on the Continent has led me to seek a refuge. What I have to say has no doubt been said many times by English writers, teachers, and preachers, far better than I, a Frenchwoman, can presume to do. Still some subjects can never be too often treated, and my foreign and most likely incorrect way of expressing my views upon them may be acceptable in this age of female interference and Education Bills. I shall be glad to learn how they are received. I am, even with the smallest means, Clement Thomas, is doing his best to knock them into shape, but I am afraid that it is too late. There are cases in which, in defiance of the proverb, it is too late to mend.

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That fearful vice of drunkenness which seems so sadly flourishing in England—would it so thrive, were the working man, or even to rise above the lower classes, many a man of business, to find his home, his clothes, his food more pleasing, nicer, more attractive? Here, too, is another subject of my reflections, and daily in the lodgings where I am now staying does it recur to me personally and in a most forcible manner. Why do not English women know a little more about the plainest elements of cookery? Is it so very difficult for them to master a few of the simplest rules and receipts which make daily food pleasanter to the eye, to the taste, and, I do believe, to the stomach? Why, I like most other French ladies, though we have at home but the trouble of ordering an excellent meal to get it, know more about cooking than any unprofessional cook I have met with here; and I can assure you that the good woman who superintends the dinners I now eat, will be far wiser when I leave her lodgings, from my very simple directions in the way of treating

vegetables and daintily warming up scraps. Why, because English roasts and steaks are so well done, many English puddings so good, some English dishes so acceptable, must your vegetables be raw, your omelettes like shoeleather, your sauces unpalatable, your spinach like bitter herb? Why, because England's fair daughters have many and rare accomplishments, her women true, noble virtues which few countries can boast of, can they not also be clever with their fingers, tidy in their habits? In England married women are seldom called upon to earn their living, as they daily are in France. Would it not be a noble and quite as real a way of doing so, if by mending, making, turning to account, they saved much of what is earned for them? Where does the evil lie? Is it in the want of early training at home, or of useful classes in schools? I leave this to more competent persons than myself to say. But when I hear of ladies' brains busied upon such subjects as the Contagious Diseases Act, and then see my landlord's very intelligent and nice little daughter of twelve, who can neither sew nor knit, though she goes to school, I marvel why clever and influential women will "chercher midi a quatorze heures," and not seek to remedy evils nearer and more fitted to their Christian efforts.

OUR POSITION AS TO LUXEMBURG.

(From the Economist.) THAT Prussia should of herself profess to set aside the Treaty of 1867, by which she as well as the other great Powers agreed to the neutralisation of the Duchy of Luxembourg, is utterly beyond defence. It may have excuses and palliations. The population of Luxembourg, whose sympathies are intensely French, may possibly have committed acts favourable to France and unfavourable to Prussia. The French railway company, to which the Luxembourg line is leased, may very possibly have managed, or tried to manage, its traffic so as a little to help France and impede Germany. But in the present state of the war between France and Germany, the misconduct of a railway, or of a part of the Luxembourg people, can be of no great importance or urgency. Count Bismarck might well have waited till he had called the attention of the co-signatories of the Treaty of 1867 to its infraction. There are cases of extreme necessity in war, but this is not one of them. Prussia ought simply to have stated her case, and then all parties to the treaty would have been eager to attend to it.

But it is one thing to blame Prussia for what she has done, and another to settle what we shall do ourselves. As our readers may perhaps remember, we protested against the Treaty of 1867. We said that if it bound us to anything it was mischievous, for we could have no interest in the neutrality or non-neutrality of a small hybrid principality, which was in theory governed by an independent duke, which in fact was governed by the King of Holland as duke, which was in some sense a part of Germany, as connected with the old Bund, yet in another sense not a part, because in no manner connected with the present Confederation. England has no reason to busy itself for the fate of a duchy, of which the size is so small and the political position so complex. And if the treaty bound us to nothing, then, we argue, it was dangerous. In reliance on our guarantee, France and Germany, who were about to go to war for Luxembourg, nominally if not really abstained from going to war; and if our guarantee did not mean anything, these countries had been led into inaction by a false pretext.

The two reasons which were given at the time, were, as we were convinced, bad ones. First—It was said that, by a clause in the Treaty of 1839, relating to Belgium, we had already guaranteed Luxembourg to the King of Holland, and that, therefore, we were not increasing our obligation, as the words of the new Treaty were less emphatic than those of the old one. We were even, it was said, diminishing it. But no one can say that an outlying clause in an old treaty is as binding as the express words of a new treaty which relates particularly to that subject and to no other. There is, indisputably, a sort of desuetude and obsolescence belonging to the minor parts of old treaties which do not belong to the principal parts of new treaties; and therefore, though the new obligation is binding, the old might in terms be less than the previous obligation, in reality it was more, because it was newly taken with a knowledge of all the existing facts and present circumstances. Indeed, the facts of the case prove that it was so. If already we were effectually guaranteeing Luxembourg in the greater sense, why should France and Prussia have abstained from impending war only upon our guaranteeing it in the lesser sense?

The second reason was, that we were preventing present war in Europe by giving our guarantee, and that therefore it was our duty to give it. But, on the face of it, this was an exceedingly bad reason. Half the worst arrangements that exist are permanent agreements made on temporary reasons. The temporary good is soon over, and the permanent liability still remains. As a principle of business, all permanent contracts ought to be made for permanent reasons, not for temporary ones. In this very case the war we fancied that we had prevented has happened, and we feel the last-mentioned of a gratuitous and not very intelligible contract.

We are, however, not now very much interested in the expediency or in expediency of the Treaty of 1867; that was a thing to be considered before we agreed to it; but now the main point is, what are our present obligations? What does this Treaty—wise or unwise—require of us? The words are these:—"The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg . . . shall henceforth form a perpetually neutral State. It shall be bound to observe the same neutrality towards all other States."

"The high contracting parties engage to respect the principle of neutrality."

"That principle is and remains placed under the sanction of the collective guarantees of the Powers signing parties to the present Treaty." These words were not very clear. Diplomatic language seldom is. Treaties are made to close quarrels, or to prevent quarrels, and, therefore, they are too apt to abstain from that clear language which calls up true ideas, and which, by making both parties distinctly aware of what they were conceding and their opponents were gaining, might keep open an existing dispute, or prevent an impending one from being compromised. As the words of the Treaty were not clear, we may look to the words of its framers. The late Lord Derby was Prime Minister, and he said:—"The guarantee is only collective—that is to say, it is binding only upon all the Powers in their collective capacity. They all agree to maintain the neutrality of Luxembourg, but not one of those Powers is bound to fulfil the obligation alone. That is a most important difference, because the only two Powers by

whom the neutrality of Luxembourg is likely to be violated are two of the parties to the collective guarantee, and therefore, if either of them violate the neutrality, the obligation rests on all the others, which would not accrue." So that, in the very case which has occurred, according to the principal member of the Government which made the treaty, we are in no way bound to go to war.

The present Lord Derby was the Foreign Secretary who negotiated the treaty, and who, as he said, had more anxieties about the guarantee than on any other public matter on which he had ever been engaged. He said—"It is a case of limited liability. Such a guarantee has obviously more the character of a moral sanction than of a contingent liability to make war." So that in the judgment of the Minister above all others responsible for the treaty, it was hardly in any case to cause war, but only a solemn approval of the terms of the Treaty, and an expression of ethical sentiment. No doubt the question remains—How could such a Treaty be of any use? . . .

Nevertheless our policy is clear. The statements of Lord Derby and of Lord Stanley were made just after the Treaty was made: they were the public construction of the compact solemnly entered into in Parliament. The other parties to the Treaty have all been cognisant of them, and they should have on the most protested against them if they had not wished to be bound by them. We cannot give a larger scope to our duty than what we assigned to it at the time. But we must feel the shame natural to every one who is entangled in an ambiguous agreement, and who uses the ambiguities of it as a mode of extricating himself from serious risks and great liabilities.

FATHER HYACINTHE.

(From the Daily News, December 21.)

FATHER HYACINTHE had been requested to deliver a discourse for the benefit of the distressed peasantry in France. That is a cause, as we have especial reason to acknowledge, which even a less eloquent advocate than Father Hyacinthe would never plead in vain before an audience in England. The theme he had chosen for his discourse was "France and Germany"; less, let us observe, the war between France and Germany, lest what has so fatally estranged, embittered, and inflamed against each other these two great nationalities, than the two great nationalities themselves. Nature and Providence might seem to have designed and disposed them, as brethren of the great human family, as fellow-workers in the same noble and spiritual emancipation of the human race from ignorance and misery, from the double pauperism of body and soul. The subject was worthy of the Carmelite Monk who was excommunicated by the chiefs of his order, and censured by the supreme authority of his Church for having held out the hand of Christian fellowship to the heretic and the Jew. [It enabled him to place himself as the minister of a gospel of love, above the angry passions of the hour, and to rise into a region of thought and faith beyond the smoke and blood of battle-fields, and to speak of France and Germany as sister nations whose existence was necessary to one another, and whose freedom and happiness and prosperity ought to be mutually interdependent. No one could speak more plainly than Father Hyacinthe did of the sin which France committed in beginning the war. This frankness of condemnation gave weight to the words in which he denounced the no less blind and no less guilty policy which Germany now seemed inclined to adopt. Bishop Dupanloup, of Orleans, could not speak in this strain for, bitterly as that ambitious prelate has suffered publicly and privately from the invasion of his country, he was one of those ecclesiastics in high places who saluted the declaration of war with fervent faith in the success of the aggressor, and who was ready to sing *Te Deum* with an ostentatious piety which King William of Prussia might almost envy. The Archbishop of Paris, who regretted the other day that he could not mount the ramparts as a soldier, is doubtless an excellent patriot; but he was the very humble servant of the Second Empire, and he would have celebrated at the altar the conquest of Germany as gladly as he celebrated the conquest of Mexico. Such are the priests and prelates of whom Voltaire said, that while they lived by denouncing sins, they had never a word to utter against that greatest sin of all—the sin in which all other sins are concentrated and combined—the sin of wholesale murder, if the victorious murderer happened to be the earthly master at whose Court they served. No doubt there are German priests and pastors of various confessions against whom the same offence is chargeable. No nation or Church can claim exemption from the reproach. But Father Hyacinthe was never one of those accommodating confessors and accomplices of crowned wrong-doers. He always stood forth as the representative of those dumb multitudes of the ignorant and the poor who are the helpless victims of those splendid enterprises of ambition. With the simple and unaffected courage of true piety, he stood up in the pulpit of Paris, amidst cynical or careless crowds of the rich, the powerful, and the corrupt, in the centre of the most sophisticated society in the world, and proclaimed that social anarchy of the Latin races of which the principal cause was not indeed Catholicism itself, but the manner in which Catholicism was understood and interpreted.]

And what was the reward of this Christian preacher, who against the philosophy of unbelief that demanded the divorce of religion and morality, had proclaimed with equal courage the Divine credentials of his faith and mission? It was the reward of men like Lamennais and Lacordaire. Suspected by the chiefs of his order, denounced at Rome, condemned to silence or to servitude, he shook the dust of his excommunication from his feet, and took refuge from his spiritual persecutors beyond the Atlantic. In the United States he was a willing and welcome guest in Protestant houses and of Protestant clergy. Although unlike Lamennais he had remained a Catholic, and, unlike Lacordaire, he had suffered excommunication from his Order, he was everywhere received, as he deserved to be, as a rare example, in an age of mock heroics and sham revivals, of the spiritual character and the apostolic office, according to their earliest and purest significance. In England his public reception was due, not only to an eminent Frenchman in whom all the best qualities of his country are revealed, pleading for peace and charity and good-will, but to the bold antagonist of all forms of tyranny and intolerance, whether in Church or State; to the Roman Catholic priest and preacher, who could own brotherly love for heretics, and insist on the superior sanctity of family life.

FRANCE never sends and others are rendered ill-served. Balfour, Newton, and Lamb's sale, at the Sydney auction, this afternoon, at 3 o'clock, of a large selected stock of new and old, also, horses and drays, and an interest in the Melbourne Jule. See advertisement. ADV.

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18th instant, on
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public auction,

COTTAGE, small, wanted: good condition. Woolloomooloo pref.: state rent. Alpha, Sydney and Gt. St. WANTED, on or near Church-hill, a small HOUSE or COTTAGE, not less than 5 rooms. Address stating rent, to Domicile, Pierce, William-street, Woolloomooloo.

TO LET.

BURWOOD.—TO LET or for SALE, TYNTHORNTON HOUSE, with extensive highly improved Grounds (14 acres), close to the Burwood Railway Station. The house is a commodious first-class family residence, replete with every comfort and convenience, and the grounds are laid out with considerable taste as park, shrubbery, paddocks, &c.

Apply to Richardson and Wrench.

HOUSE to LET 242 Kent street 2 rooms

TO LET, 2 Twickenham-ter, Glamore Rd., Epps-
Apply on post to Cook and Robins, 231, Pitt-
street. 266 per wk. Apply 170, Pitt-street.

TO LET 2 COTTAGES, 66 and 74 6d, and, 10a
HOUSE, 10a, Glamore Road, Rubenrutter's Bay

TO LET HOUSE, with bath, paddock, and stable
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TO LET, Pitt-street, near Bathurst-street, new SHOP
and DWELLING: rent, 21s. 351, Castlereagh-st.

TO LET, in Pitt-street South, COTTAGE, 2 rooms and
kitchen: large yard: rent, 10s. GIBSON, 282, Pitt-st.

TWO LET, Newtown, near Tollgate, COTTAGE, newly
done up: rent, 6s. 331, Castlereagh-street.

TO LET, 236, South Clarence-street; 4 rooms, kitchen &c. Inquire Mr. Leggatt, Goodell and Smith, Geo., 100, Erskine-street. Apply 225, George-street North.

TO LET, SHOP, with Dwelling, Backhouse, 38, RILEY-street, East. Inquire Mr. Leggatt, Goodell and Smith, Geo., 100, Erskine-street.

TO LET, large SHOP, 375, George-street, near Glasgow Boot Shop. Rumbarger, Brothers, on the premises.

TO LET, 6-room HOUSE, Derwent-street, Glasgow. William Ephraim, jun., Globe.

TO LET, HOUSES: three, four, and five rooms, kitchen, yard, water. Apply Ullimo House, Ullimo-street, Glasgow.

TO LET, a HOUSE, of 3 rooms, with water. Apply Mrs. A. D. Henderson, 110, Glasgow-street.

TO LET, SHOP AND DWELLING, 121, Bathurst-street. Inquire of Mrs. Clare, 119.

TO LET, or for SALE, Hotel BELLEVUE, Hunter-street. Apply G. WANGENHEIM, King-street.

TO LET, No. 2, O'Connell-street, near Australian Club, 2 rooms, bath, gas, &c. Inquire of Mr. RILEY, Supreme Court Hotel, King and Phillip streets.

TO LET, in Gloucester-street, HOUSE, No. 63, on corner of Gloucester-street, 4 rooms, kitchen, &c. Inquire of Mr. RILEY, Supreme Court Hotel, King and Phillip streets.

very low rent. Apply to John L. Murphy, 128, Prince
street

TO LET, genteel HOUSES, Williams-terrace, Bonhill and Stanley streets, 6 rooms, both very healthy and airy. Apply to Mr. W. J. Vennart, No. 61, Victoria Metropolitan Hotel, King-street.

TO PROFESSIONAL GENTLEMEN and others.—To LET, a commodious Suite of OFFICES, 2nd floor, Victoria-chambers, 131, Pitt-street. Apply to W. J. Jack, on the premises.

TO BOOT AND SHOE MANUFACTURERS and others.—To LET, or for SALE, those large premises known as the ALBERT PAVILION, Elizabeth-street, Reform. Building Society's Office, Park-street, Sydney.

TO BE LET, DEEPDENE, situated Kirribilli Point North Shore; seven rooms, water frontage, opposite

TO LET, delightfully-situated, overlooking the variety Grounds, two new HOUSES, containing six rooms each: both room, wash-house, large, water laid on. Situated at No. 18, Arden-terrace, Farnham-street, and E. E. Bismarck-street, 14, George-street.

TO LET IN RESIDENCE-STREET, Paddington, first-class FAMILY RESIDENCE, known as Woodstock House, lately occupied by G. P. Slade, Esq.; coach-house, stable, garden, abundance of water. It also commands a splendid view of the harbour. For terms apply to the premises, or to Mr. Taylor, Market Wharf, Sussex-street.

TO LET, at Potts' Point, the HOUSE at present occupied by Mrs. Want: contains drawing-room &c.

The DINGLE, NORTH SHORE, NEWCASTLE, is a detached residence, containing 6 rooms: kitchen, with servant's room, with garden and paddock: three minutes' walk from the beach. Inquire of J. F. Hilly, 134 Pitt-street. Rent, £150. No taxes.

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T O B E L E T O N L E A S E
that first-class well-known country seat,
WYVENHOE
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ACRES OF LAND on the Nepona River, adjoining
KIRKHAM, the estate of J. K. O'Leary, Esq., and the
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